

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on April 23, 2003 is acknowledged. Reconsideration of the above-mentioned application is hereby requested in view of the remarks which follow.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 through 6 under 35 §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art in view of Lenaerts, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 3,521,221). The Examiner indicated that with regard to claims 1, 3 and 6 that Applicants' admitted prior art disclosed a connector for RF coaxial lines comprised of two connector halves for establishing contact with an outer conductor RF coaxial lines by means of an insulation displacement connection with at least one cutting edge arranged on each connector half, where the cutting edges are arranged opposite each other in the longitudinally axial direction. The Examiner also indicated that the admitted prior art does not show cutting edges being arranged opposite each other in staggered and parallel offset manner to establish a cold welding-type connection with the outer conductor. The Examiner indicated that Lenaerts discloses a connector showing the concept of having cutting edges being arranged opposite each other in staggered and parallel offset manner and the cutting edges overlapping each other. The Examiner referred to Figures 1, 2 and 6-7. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Firstly, Applicants are not clear on the Examiner's reference to Figures 6 and 7, as Lenaerts only shows Figures 1 through 4. Applicants also disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the Lenaerts application. Applicants' claim 1 indicates that the cutting edges are arranged opposite each other in staggered and parallel offset manner in the longitudinal axial direction of the outer conductor. No such disclosure is found in Lenaerts. In fact, Lenaerts indicates that the edges face each other to define a slot and a conductor-receiving passageway. (Column 3, lines 32-35). Thus, there is no staggering in the longitudinal direction or in the axis of the wire. Thus, the combination of Applicants' admitted prior art and Lenaerts would yield no difference in configuration than that of Applicants' admitted prior art itself.

That is, Applicants' Figures 1, 2 show the plates 2 being positioned with edges facing each other and receiving a conductor 8. Lenaerts also shows facing edges 38, 40.

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These edges are not staggered but extend in the same plane. Thus, the addition of Lenaerts adds nothing to the prior art shown in the Figures 1, 2.

For all the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that claims 1-14 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request early passage thereof.

If necessary to effect a timely response, please consider this paper a request for an extension of time, and charge any shortages in fees, or apply any overpayment credits, to Baker & Daniels' Deposit Account No. 02-0387 (72262.00007). However, please do not include the payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

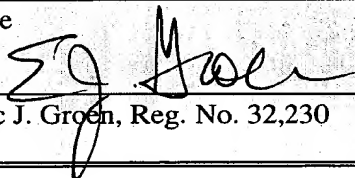


Eric J. Groen, Reg. No. 32,230
BAKER & DANIELS
205 West Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 250
South Bend, IN 46601
Telephone: (574) 234-4149
Fax: (574) 239-1900

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Eric J. Groen, Reg. No. 32,230